

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Application of:) Group Art Unit: 3632		
Sanatgar, Homayoun, et al. Serial No.: 10/601,110		Examiner: King, Anita M. Confirmation No.: 7024		
For:	METAL TUBE SUPPORT BRACKET AND METHOD FOR SUPPORTING A METAL TUBE) Previous Docket No. 012903) New Docket No. 094996-155036		
	· ·	 Attorney Handling Renewed Petition: Paul Shanoski, Senior Attorney Office of Petitions 		
United S P.O. Box Alexand	ssioner for Patents States Patent and Trademark Office x 1450 Iria, VA 22313-1450			
Sir:	, Homayoun Sanatgar, hereby declare and	l stata as fallows:		
1	, Homayoun Sanaigai, hereby declare and	i state as follows.		
1	I. I am one of the inventors of the abo	ove-identified application. In connection with		
the Petition	on For Revival of An Application For Pat	ent Abandoned Unintentionally Under 37		
C.F.R. §	1.137(b) filed on November 21, 2007, I pr	reviously filed a declaration in support of the		
	CERTIFICATE OF MAIL	LING (37 C.F.R. §1.10)		
Postal Serv		attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States 'Express Mail Post Office To Addressee' in an envelope O, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.		
EM 099	9782671 US	Yolanda G. Ybuan		
	ail Label No.	Name of Person Mailing Paper		
July 18, 20		Yolanda K. Ykuan		
Date of De	posit	Signature of Person Mailing Paper		

LAI-2951625v1

Petition. A true and correct copy of my original declaration is attached hereto as Exhibit A. In response to the Decision on Petition Under 37 F.F.F. § 1.137(B) ("Decision"), I hereby submit this second declaration. As indicated in my first declaration, as part of my duties at Thermal Dynamics, I was the sole person responsible for interfacing with prior counsel of record in this application.

- 2. I learned that the above application, U.S. Patent Serial No. 10/601,110 (the '110 application) became abandoned sometime after February 1 and before May 8, 2007 based on an investigation I conducted after I was unable to make contact with Mr. Gary Appel and after learning that another unrelated case of Thermal Dynamics that was being handled by Mr. Appel had gone abandoned.
- 3. Mr. Appel was initially retained in about 2000 to represent Thermal Dynamics before the United States Patent Office with regard to all new patent applications, including the above-referenced '110 application. Mr. Appel was the responsible attorney of record for Thermal Dynamics patent applications, including at least two applications which resulted in issued patents. As far as I am aware, prior to the abandonment of the above application, Mr. Appel had timely filed all required responses and documents with the Patent Office for Thermal Dynamics' applications.
- 4. I understand that according to the Decision on Petition, the '110 application became abandoned on January 2, 2005, based on the failure to file a response to the Second Office Action dated September 27, 2004. At this time, Mr. Appel was the attorney of record for Thermal Dynamics. At no time did Mr. Appel inform me, as his contact at Thermal Dynamics, or anyone else at Thermal Dynamics, that (i) he received a copy of the second Office Action dated September 27, 2004, or that (ii) he was not going to timely file a response. Nor at any time did Mr. Appel ever inform me or any other person at Thermal Dynamics, either directly or indirectly, that the '110 application had become abandoned.

2

LAI-2951625v1

- 5. Based on my prior dealings with Mr. Appel and at all times prior to my discovery of the abandonment of the '110 application, I understood that Mr. Appel was either waiting to hear from the Patent Office or had timely handled any matters that may have arose in connection with the case. Consistent with my belief that Mr. Appel was continuing to properly represent Thermal Dynamics with regard to patent matters, I sent a letter by facsimile on February 7, 2005 to Mr. Appel regarding another, unrelated third-party patent matter. I have retained this attorney-client privileged communication in my records. Consistent with my past practices and understanding with Mr. Appel, I left the responsibility for prosecuting all patent matters in the hands of Mr. Appel. I further understood that anything important would be brought to my attention by Mr. Appel. For example, with regard to the '110 application, I recall that Mr. Appel forwarded to me his June 28, 2004 Response to Office Action electing to pursue claims 1 through 11, as required by the Examiner's restriction requirement. Accordingly, based on this communication, his past practices and successful handling of prior patent applications to issuance, I understood that Mr. Appel was properly prosecuting the '110 application.
- 6. From the early 2005 time frame until the summer of 2006, I became very busy at work with respect to Thermal Dynamics operations in mainland China. My responsibilities included extensive travel to mainland China, including responsibility for the transfer of manufacturing of products from California to China. At no time during this period was I aware that the Patent Office had issued a second Office Action with respect to the '110 application, or that Mr. Appel had not responded as he had done with respect to other patent application matters in the past.
- 7. Beginning in the summer of 2006, and not having spoken to Mr. Appel for several months, I attempted to contact Mr. Appel on numerous occasions by telephone to inquire about the status of the patent matters he was handling on behalf of Thermal Dynamics. However, I did not receive any response from Mr. Appel. Accordingly, I followed up with Mr. Appel by sending him a letter dated September 5, 2006, the text of which states as follows:

LAI-2951625v1 3

"Dear Mr. Appel

For the past several months, I have attempted to contact you to follow up on some of the patent applications that you filed on behalf of Thermal Dynamics Corp. I left numerous phone messages for you and have not heard from you yet.

If you no longer wish to continue to represent Thermal Dynamics Corp. on patent applications that you have already filed on our behalf, please inform us so that we can pursue other avenues.

Please respond to this letter in writing, indicating your desire to further pursue our applications. I would like for us to meet at a mutually convenient time so that we review our file.

You may reach me at work 909-390-3944 ext. 272, or on my cell phone at 909-227-5014. I can also be reached via e-mail at hsanatgar@thermaldynamics.com.

I look forward to hearing from.

Very truly yours,

Hugh Sanatgar Vice-President of Engineering"

A true and correct copy of my letter to Mr. Appel is attached hereto as Exhibit B. The letter was delivered to and received by Mr. Appel on September 8, 2006 as indicated on the attached certified mail delivery form.

8. Four (4) days after my letter arrived, on September 12, 2006, Mr. Appel telephoned me. During the telephone call, I requested that he provide a summary of Thermal Dynamics' pending patent applications. Mr. Appel mentioned to me that he had been seriously ill and therefore unable to respond to my earlier inquiries. At no time during our call did Mr. Appel inform me or mention in any way that the '110 application had became abandoned. In connection with this call, Mr. Appel sent to me the following letter:

"Dear Mr. Sanatgar:

In furtherance of my telephone call to you this date, I am preparing a Summary of the Thermal Dynamics corporate patent cases. This Summary should be completed by September 17, 2006, and at which time, I will fax you said Summary for your review and

LAI-2951625v1 4

further discussion in conference.

Very truly yours, Gary Appel"

A true and correct copy of Mr. Appel's letter is attached hereto as Exhibit C. The notations on this letter below Mr. Appel's signature are my own, and indicate the dates I followed up with Mr. Appel by telephone. Given the positive nature of Mr. Appel's letter, I accepted at face value his claim that he had been ill and that he would provide a summary for further discussion. Because of the positive nature of our telephone call and his letter, I had no reason to suspect that any deadlines had not been met.

- 9. On September 20, 2006, I telephoned Mr. Appel to inquire about the summary because it was promised for September 17, 2006. Mr. Appel did not answer the telephone and therefore I left a message. On October 15, 2006 I spoke with Mr. Appel by telephone. Mr. Appel indicated that he had again been sick, but that he was now feeling better and he would have the summary prepared by Thursday, October 19, 2006, "end of the week." On October 20, 2006, and again on October 26, 2006 and November 2 and 13, 2006, I telephoned Mr. Appel and left voice messages on each of these four (4) occasions asking him to contact me by telephone. Mr. Appel never returned any of these telephone calls or responded in any way. Each of these telephone messages, along with our telephone call, are indicated on Exhibit C in my handwritten notes.
- 10. Having not heard back from Mr. Appel, on November 14, 2006 I wrote the State Bar of California to complain that Mr. Appel was not responding to my inquiries. My letter stated as follows:

5

"State Bar of California

Re: Complaint regarding Gary Appel 18301 Irvine Blvd., 2nd floor Tustin, CA 92780

LAI-2951625v1

November 14, 2006

We have been working very well with Mr. Appel in the matters that he represented us primarily related to patent and copyright issues. We have had several meetings with him in the past several (five or so) years and he has filed several patents on our behalf.

We have been having an extremely difficult time contacting him and having him follow up on the items that are outstanding. On September 5, 2006, I sent a certified letter (copy attached, item A) to him requesting that he either respond to us or tell us that we if we should pursue other avenues.

He responded back (copy attached, item B) with a letter dated September 12, 2006 that he will provide a summary by 9/17/06. We have not received any correspondence from him since that time and our attempts to call him on a number of occasions to set up a conference has been futile."

A true and correct copy of my letter is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

11. On December 5, 2006, the State Bar of California wrote to me and indicated that Mr. Appel had been advised to "re-establish contact" with Thermal Dynamics and that the State Bar was closing the complaint at this time. The full text of the State Bar's response is as follows:

"You have complained that your attorney has not returned your calls for the last two months.

The attorney has been advised to re-establish contact with you within ten (10) working days and discuss the status of the case with you. If the attorney fails to contact you, the State Bar will consider the matter for further intervention and/or action. It is hoped that bringing your complaint to the attorney's attention will resolve the matter.

In light of the above, we are closing the complaint at this time."

Very truly yours,

Karen Illich, Complaint Analyst"

A true and correct copy of the letter from the State Bar is attached hereto as Exhibit E. Because of the direction by the State Bar advising Mr. Appel to contact me, and its action in "closing the complaint at this time," I waited to hear from Mr. Appel believing the State Bar's actions would

LAI-2951625vI 6

require Mr. Appeal to contact me.

- 12. On February 1, 2007, I contacted David Randall, an attorney with the Firm of Jones Day, to discuss a potential infringement issue with regard to an unrelated Thermal Dynamics patent application, U.S. Application No. 10/967,810 (the '810 application). Later that day, I learned from Mr. Randall that the '810 application, which was also being handled by Mr. Appel, had gone abandoned.
- After learning of the abandonment of the '810 patent application and still not 13. hearing from Mr. Appel, I began to investigate the status of Thermal Dynamics patent applications. Although I do not recall the exact date, sometime in early 2007, after the first part of February but perhaps in March or April, through my investigations I learned that the '110 application had become abandoned. During this time, I was very busy at work, including domestic travel from March 19 to 21, and international travel to mainland China from April 2 to 18, 2007. Sometime around May 8, 2007, and after my April business trip to mainland China, I contacted patent attorney Michael Davidson, who is with a small firm and with whom I had previously worked on an unrelated matter for Thermal Dynamics, to discuss the '110 application. Mr. Davidson and I eventually spoke on or shortly after May 31, 2007 regarding the general subject of abandonment and revival. Following these discussions, and in view of my prior dealings with sole practitioners like Mr. Appel, I decided to hire an attorney from a larger firm to handle potential revival of the '110 application. However, at that time I was required to travel again to mainland China from June 18-29, 2007 to visit four factories located several hours outside of Shanghai. Because travel to Thermal Dynamics' factories requires several weeks of extensive preparation before the trip in order to identify the production issues that must be addressed, and several weeks of post-trip follow-up activities to address new issues identified during the trip, I was unable to further pursue the revival of the '110 application until early · August.

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LAI-2951625v1

- 14. On August 10, 2007, I contacted David Randall of Jones Day and requested Mr. Randall to review the '110 application and advise Thermal Dynamics in connection with the matter. In response to my request, Mr. Randall investigated the matter and ultimately prepared the documents, with my assistance, that were submitted to the Patent Office in connection with the initial Petition to Revive filed November 21, 2007. For example, because of my familiarity with the art, and the number of references cited by the Examiner (thirteen), it was decided that I would preliminarily review the cited references, which I did during the month of September, 2007. After preparation of the required Response, I received a draft from Mr. Randall on November 7, 2007, and reviewed it by November 20, 2007. During this time period from August 10, 2007 until the filing of the Petition for Revival on November 21, 2007, I also attended to my other job responsibilities, which included additional frequent periods of travel.
- 15. As I indicated in my original declaration, the entire delay in filing the required reply, from the due date for the required reply until the filing of a grantable petition under 37 C.F.R. § 137(b), was unintentional.

I declare under penalty of perjury that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or patent issuing thereon.

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LAI-2951625v1

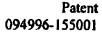
Patent 094996-155036

Executed this 17 day of July 2008, at Ontario, CA. U.S.A.

Homayoun Sanatgar

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:) Group Art Unit: 3632
Sanatgar, Homayoun, et al.) Examiner: King, Anita M.
Seriai No.: 10/601,110) Confirmation No.: 7024
Filed: June 23, 2003) Customer No.: 34026
For: METAL TUBE SUPPORT BRACKET AND METHOD FOR SUPPORTING A METAL TUBE) Previous Docket No. 012903 New Docket No. 094996-155001

DECLARATION OF HOMAYOUN SANATGAR

Attention: Office of Petitions Mail Stop Petition Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

- I, Homayoun Sanatgar, hereby declare and state as follow:
- 1. I am one of the named inventors of the above-identified application.
- 2. Over the last eight years I have been employed by Thermal Dynamics Corp., and currently hold the position of Vice President of Engineering. All of the inventors of the present application were employees of Thermal Dynamics Corp. at the time of the invention and are obligated pursuant to their employment contracts with Thermal Dynamics Corp. to assign the present application to Thermal Dynamics Corp.
- 3. As part of my duties at Thermal Dynamics Corp., I was responsible for interfacing with prior counsel of record in this application.

- 4. I recently learned that the above-identified application became abandoned because prior counsel of record failed to file a timely and proper reply to the October 1, 2004 office action by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.
- 5. The entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the required reply until the filing of a grantable petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b) was unintentional.

I declare under that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or patent issuing thereon.

Executed this 20th day of November 2007, at Ontario, CA, U.S.A.

Homayoun Sanatgar

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Law Offices of Gary Appel 18301 Irvine Blvd. Tustin, CA 92780

September 5, 2006

Dear Mr. Appel

For the past several months, I have attempted to contact you to follow up on some of the patent applications that you filed on behalf of Thermal Dynamics Corp. I left numerous phone messages for you and have not heard from you yet.

If you no longer wish to continue to represent Thermal Dynamics Corp. on patent applications that you have already filed on our behalf, please inform us so that we can pursue other avenues.

Please respond to this letter in writing, indicating your desire to further pursue our applications. I would like for us to meet at a mutually convenient time so that we review our file.

You may reach me at work 909-390-3944 ext. 272, or on my cell phone at 909-227-5014. I can also be reached via e-mail at hsanatgar@thermaldynamics.com.

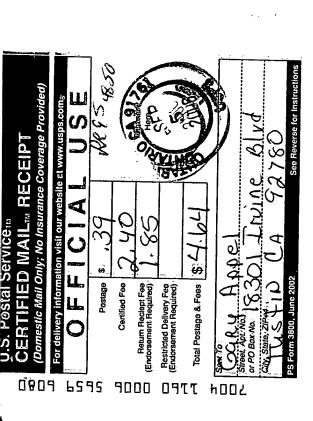
I look forward to hearing from.

Very truly yours,

Hugh Sanatgar Vice-President of Engineering

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Tustin CA 92780	3. Service Type Certified Mail: Express Mail Registered Return Receipt for Merchandise Insured Mail: C.O.D.
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Law Offices of Gary Appel

18301 Irvine Blvd., 2nd Floor Tustin, California 92780 Tele: (714) 730-6700

Fax: (714) 838-0046

September 12, 2006

Hugh Sanatgar, Ph.D., P.E. Director of Engineering Thermal Dynamics Corporation 4850 East Airport Drive Ontario, CA 91761

Via Fax (909) 390-3955

Re: Thermal Dynamics Corporation, U.S. Patent Applications

Dear Dr. Sanatgar:

In furtherance of my telephone call to you this date, I am preparing a Summary of the Thermal Dynamics corporate patent cases. This Summary should be completed by September 17, 2006, and at which time, I will fax you said Summary for your review and further discussion in conference.

Very truly yours,

Gary Appel

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4850 East Airport Drive

Ontario, CA 91761

Telephone 909/390-3944

FAX 909/390-3955

E-mail: mail@thermaldynamics.com

State Bar of California

Re: Complaint regarding

Gary Appel

18301 Irvine Blvd., 2nd floor

Tustin, CA 92780

November 14, 2006

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He responded back (copy attached, item 8) with a letter dated September 12, 2006 that he will provide a summary by 9/17/06. We have not received any correspondence from him since that time and our attempts to call him on a number of occasions to set up a conference has been futile.

11-14-06



Law Offices of Gary Appel 18301 Irvine Blvd. Tustin, CA 92780

Item A

September 5, 2006

Dear Mr. Appel

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I look forward to hearing from.

Very truly yours,

Hugh Sanatgar Vice-President of Engineering

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AND PROPERTY.

Law Offices of Gary Appel

18301 tryine Blvd., 2nd Floor Tustin, California 92780 Tele: (714) 730-6700

Fax: (714) 838-0046



September 12, 2006

Via Fax (909) 390-3955

Hugh Sanatgar, Ph.D., P.F.
Director of Engineering
Thermal Dynamics Corporation
4850 East Airport Drive
Ontario, CA 91761

Re: Thermal Dynamics Corporation, U.S. Patent Applications

Dear Dr. Sanatgar:

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Very truly yours,

Gary Appel

' OFFICÉ OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL/INTAKE The State Bar of California 1149 South Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90015-2299 0004311715 MAILED FROM ZIPCODE 90015 Street City RASS

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL INTAKE

1149 SOUTH HILL STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015-2299

TELEPHONE: (213) 765-1000 TDD: (213) 765-1566 FAX: (213) 765-1168 http://www.calbar.ca.gov

December 5, 2006

Hugh Sanatgar Thermal Dynamics Corp. 4850 E. Airport Dr. Ontario, CA 91761

RE:

Inquiry Number:

06-28724

Respondent:

Gary Appel

Dear Mr. Sanatgar:

You have complained that your attorney has not returned your calls for the last two months.

The attorney has been advised to re-establish contact with you within ten (10) working days and discuss the status of the case with you. If the attorney fails to contact you, the State Bar will consider the matter for further intervention and/or action. It is hoped that bringing your complaint to the attorney's attention will resolve the matter.

In light of the above, we are closing the complaint at this time.

Very truly yours,

Karen Ilich

Complaint Analyst

aren Wich

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THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

1149 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90015-2200



Fiugh Sanatgar Thermal Dynamics Corp. 4850 E. Airport Dr. Ontario, CA 91761

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THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA COMPLAINT FORM

Read instructions before filling in this form.

Date 11-14-06 (1) Your name and address __Hugh Sanatgar, Thermal Dynamics Corp., 4850 E. Airport Dr., Ontario, CA 917.1 (2) Telephone number: Residence Work 909-390-3944, Ext. 272 (3) The name, address and telephone number of the attorney being complained about. (See note below.) Gary Appel, 18301 Irvine Blvd., 2nd Floor, Tustin, CA 92780, 714-730-6700 (4) Have you or a member of your family complained about this attorney previously? Yes ____, No _XX_. If yes, please state to whom the previous complaint was made, its approximate date and disposition. (5) Did you employ the attorney? Answer yes or no and, if "yes," give the approximate date you employed him or them and the amount, if any, paid to him. Yes. We have employed Mr. Appel since around 2001 to work on patent related items for us. (6) If your answer to 5 above is "no," what is your connection with the attorney? Explain briefly. (7) Write out on a separate piece of paper and send-with this form a statement of what the attorney did or did not do that you are complaining about. Please state the facts as you understand them. Do not include opinions or arguments. If you employed the attorney, state what you employed him to do. Sign and date such separate piece of paper. Further information may be requested. (Attach copies of pertaining documents.) (8) If your complaint is about a law suit, answer the following, if known: a. Name of court (For example, Superior Court or Municipal - in what county) b. Title of the suit (For example, Smith against Jones). ____ N/A ______ c. Number of the suit N/A d. Approximate date the suit was filed N/A e. If you are not a party to this suit, what is your connection with it? Explain briefly. (9) Size of law firm complained about (*) 1 Attorney XX 2 - 10Attorneys 11 + Attorneys NOTE: If you are complaining about more than one attorney, write out the information about each in answer to questions 3 through 8 above on separate sheets if necessary. Mail to: Office of the Chief Trial Counsel/Intake State Bar of California 1149 South Hill Street Los Angeles, California 90015-2299 (*) Section 6095.1 of the Business and Professions Code mandates that the State Bar compile statistics concerning the size of the attorney's law firm - solo practitioner. small law firm (2-10 attorneys) and large law firm (11+ attorneys).

Signature _____

We have received your complaint against a California attorney and have assigned it the number shown below. We will contact you when our evaluation of your matter is complete.

Thank you for your patience.

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL/INTAKE

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